

**CDBG Success Story Template**  
**Celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 1974-2014**

**Grantee Name:** City of Burlington – Community and Economic Development Office

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**Name of Project:** Community Health Center of Burlington Dental Center

Started in 2000, completed in 2005

**Type of Project:** Public/Health Facilities

**Area Served:** Urban

**Primary Beneficiary/Category:** low/mod income area

**General Project Information:**

- a) Amount of CDBG funds: \$14,850 CDBG, \$300,000 CDBG Loan
- b) Year that activity was funded: 2000
- c) Project Start Date: 2000
- d) Project Completion Date: 2003
- e) Current Funding 2013 – CDBG Public Services \$9,000

**Sources of leverage: Were other funds, besides CDBG, leveraged for this project?**

- a) Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_
- b) If any, list other sources, amounts and uses of funding, please include in-kind contributions:
- c) \$700,000 US Department of Health and Human Services - FQHS
- d) What was the total project cost including CDBG and leveraged funds?  
\$1,000,000

**Other Partners:**

Names of sub-recipients/non-profits involved with this project:

Community Health Center of Burlington

The Dental Clinic

Public departments and agencies involved with this project:

Community and Economic Development Office - CEDO

Other key players who contributed to the project (lenders, schools, business owners, elected officials)?

HUD, HHS, FQHC, Bernie Sanders (at the time – Representative to the US Congress)

## **SUMMARY OF SUCCESS STORY:**

Please provide a general summary of the project. Some suggestions are listed below—you do not need to answer these specific questions.

The community need for affordable dental care had been on the minds of Health Center board members and staff for at least a decade. In developing the Building Renewal Project, the Health Center planned to house a future dental clinic. The success of the project allowed the Health Center to set aside space adjacent to the medical program on the first floor. In 2002, staff was busy expanding the clinical program and the idea of starting up the dental clinic was a plan for the future. But like many of the best-laid plans, the Health Center found itself responding to an unprecedented opportunity with a long time community partner instead.

The Dental Clinic was a non-profit dental practice that was also the sole dental residency site for all of Vermont. Serving a large Medicaid and uninsured population, the Dental Clinic had a mission that matched the heart of the Health Center. The two organizations worked closely together, serving the homeless population and sharing many patients. However, in 2002, the Dental Clinic faced a dilemma. They had to vacate their thirty-year home at the University Health Center to make way for a badly needed methadone clinic. Their shoestring budget couldn't afford the area rents nor could purchase the new equipment they would need, since their ancient chairs were too old to move. Loss of this safety net practice would have been devastating to local access to affordable dental care. The Health Center, with the assistance of community partners, moved quickly to help. The City of Burlington agreed to provide the Health Center with a bridge loan of \$300,000 to fit up its empty space into a seven operatory dental clinic.

The Dental Clinic would move in and work side by side with the medical program while the two organizations worked on a rare non-profit merger. Within six months, the Dental Clinic had moved into 617 Riverside to a brand new seven operatory clinic and the Health Center launched their "Open Wide" campaign to pay off the loan and bring in crucial new technology to support the merger and the burgeoning practice. In 2003, the Health Center once again developed an innovative program design, and applied for FQHC dental funding. Its proposal ranked in the top ten in the country and was funded.

The Federal funding from HHS allowed the Health Center to greatly increase the service of the Dental Clinic, expanding it from its original four operatories to eleven operatories in three sites and to formally merge the two organizations. In January 2004, the Dental Clinic and the Health Center opened as one organization to serve the community. In addition to the main dental clinic, the Health Center created the Safe Harbor Dental Clinic to serve the homeless and urgent care patients in Chittenden County. One year later the Health Center opened a school based clinic at H.O. Wheeler School in Burlington's Old North End serving Medicaid and uninsured children without a dental home from all eight Burlington Schools. By 2006, the dental program served over 4,000 patients.

Today, the City of Burlington continues to fund the Dental Program within its Public Services CDBG funds and recently funded the distribution of 350 Dental Survival Kits to homeless encampments and family shelters with hygiene supplies and dental information.

## **DOCUMENTATION:**

Please include hyperlinks and/or photos, video clips, news media coverage, and/or statistics summarizing your success or other tangible materials to help further illustrate your story.

<http://www.chcb.org>

<http://www.chcb.org/services-programs/dental-care>

